

**MINUTES  
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2006**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. held at Freedom Hill County Park.

**ROLL CALL**

**In Attendance:**

James M. Perna, President  
Gasper Salerno, Vice-President  
Dino F. Bucci Jr., Sgt. At Arms  
Phillip A. DiMaria  
Anthony Lipinski  
Timothy M. Malone  
Gene Schabath, Rep. Anthony Marrocco  
Thomas L. Raymus  
Marvin E. Sauger  
Betty Slinde

**Excused/Absent:**

Ann E. Klein, Secretary, absent

**Others Present:**

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn and David Humbyrd, Parks & Recreation;  
Jim Meyerand and Jill Smith of Corporation Counsel; Gerald Santoro of Planning & Economic Development; Tony Mannino, St. Ronald's Church

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. SAUGER TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH ONE ADDITION TO 7D. HARLEYFEST COMMUNICATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

George Parker of Sterling Heights questioned Mr. Perna's loyalties and believed that correct action would be for Mr. Perna to step down as President.

Tony Mannino of St. Ronald's Church commented that the parking fee and security costs are too high and asked the Commission to reconsider costs as St. Ronald's Church is trying to raise monies.

Joyce Fitch of Sterling Heights referenced pictures of Mr. Perna and Hillside and stated they do not represent the taxpayers and asked Mr. Perna to step down as President.

Joan Lapine of Sterling Heights stated she agreed with Mr. Parker and Ms. Fitch.

Janet Skozan of Sterling Heights agreed with the others and asked Mr. Perna to step down.

Fran Parker of Sterling Heights stated she believed Mr. Perna, President of the Parks Commission and his membership have been unethical and should step down. Ms. Parker questioned the fireworks to be used and also questioned the change on length of public participation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION BY MR. DIMARIA, SUPPORTED BY MR. SALERNO WAS MADE APPROVING MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS OF MARCH 9, MARCH 23, AND MARCH 28, 2006. MOTION CARRIED.**

**BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. Casasanta reported there were no major changes in the budget.

**A MOTION BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. LIPINSKI WAS MADE APPROVING THE BUDGET REPORT AS SUBMITTED BY THE PARKS ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Casasanta asked if the Commission had any questions on the County Timeline Report and indicated the small misprint of the 74-76 dates will be corrected.

**A MOTION BY MS. SLINDE, SUPPORTED BY MR. BUCCI WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Master Plan – Update**

Mr. Santoro reported the Planning Department would like to go out for quote on professional services. Mr. Santoro suggested and requested the Commission give the Planning Department financial oversight as the Planning Department is doing majority of the project. He further asked that Planning be allowed to put in place the Professional services. He further stated receipts with a “not to exceed amount” indicated, if appropriate, and be presented at future meetings to the Commission.

Mr. Santoro explained that the professional portion would be up to \$20,000, and the Planning Department is absorbing their own cost.

**A MOTION BY MS. SLINDE, SUPPORTED BY MR. SAUGER WAS MADE APPROVING MR. SANTORO’S RECOMMENDATION ON THE MASTER PLAN PROJECT.**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks - Veterans Parking

Mr. Casasanta presented a request from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154 asking servicemen, who can provide proper identification, be allowed free parking. In order to control the parking situation the plan is to designate different color passes from paid parking.

Mr. DiMaria addressed his concern over mortar size of fireworks. Mr. Casasanta responded that the Park has used 8-inch fireworks before and are implementing the necessary safety requirements.

Mr. Salerno inquired about the expected attendance for this event. Mr. Casasanta responded typically 4,000-6,000 cars are parked and it is very well attended. He further stated generally our fireworks are the only ones displayed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in this area.

Discussion ensued about identification factors for veterans parking and donations for the fireworks.

Mr. Casasanta commented there is \$10,000 for fireworks and have raised \$500 so far and are making phone calls to raise more in order to do a \$20,000 fireworks event. The Veterans group might be coming to the forefront with a donation. He stated an application has been submitted to the City of Sterling Heights for a \$20,000 event and if necessary the Park can scale down the event. Mr. Casasanta recommended having the deposit ready a couple weeks prior to event and the balance paid a month after. Mr. Casasanta responded to Mr. Malone’s concern about a refund by stating the deposit is refundable.

**A MOTION BY MR. DIMARIA, SUPPORTED BY MS. SLINDE WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE REQUEST. MOTION CARRIED**

Flat Rate Parking Fees

Mr. Casasanta recommended a pre-paid flat parking fee on local union picnic events. Several of the local union organizations prefer this so their members do not have to pay at the gate. The flat rate would be based on 200 cars at \$1,400.

**A MOTION BY MS. SLINDE, SUPPORTED BY MR. BUCCI WAS MADE APPROVING THE PARK ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION ON FLAT RATE PARKING FEES OF LOCAL UNION EVENTS. MOTION CARRIED.**

Harley Fest Communication

Mr. Casasanta presented a request from the sponsor of the Harley Fest organization asking for an increase in parking fees from \$8.00 to \$10.00; \$7.00 for the Parks Commission, \$3.00 charity to the Karmanos Institute.

**A MOTION BY MR. DIMARIA, SUPPORTED BY MR. LIPINSKI WAS MADE APPROVING THE REQUEST TO INCREASE PARKING FEES FOR HARLEY FEST EVENT FROM \$8.00 TO \$10.00. MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

2006 Food Concession – County Events

Mr. Casasanta reported the Park chose Mercurio's and Mastro's for concessions at County Park sponsored events. This decision was made based on three bids, a third from Garland Enterprises. Mastro's Ice Cream and Mercurio's Foods were considered best due to their standing in operations and their high-end trailers used to serve the public. The County will receive 30% of gross sales (5% increase) from Mercurio's Foods and 25% of gross sales from Mastro's Ice Cream.

**A MOTION BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. DIMARIA WAS MADE APPROVING MERCURIO'S AND MASTRO'S FOOD CONCESSIONS AS RECOMMENDED. MOTION CARRIED.**

Closed Session-To Discuss Attorney/Client Privileged Communication

**A MOTION BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MS. SLINDE WAS MADE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION.**

ROLL CALL VOTE

	YES	NO
BUCCI	X	
DIMARIA		X
RAYMUS	X	
KLEIN	absent	
LIPINSKI		X
MALONE		X
SCHABATH	X	
PERNA	X	
SALERNO	X	
SAUGER	X	
SLINDE	X	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

**MOTION PASSED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION.**

The Park Commission reconvened at 8:40 a.m.

OTHER

Mr. Casasanta requested that the Commission change the Regular Commission Meeting date in September, as he will be out of town the week of September 11, 2006 and he will furnish a letter regarding his annual leave.

Mr. Schabath asked about the status of the Cabaret Show and for a contract. Mr. Perna responded it is set for April 29, 2006 and Mr. Carluccio is coordinating the event.

Mr. DiMaria requested Mr. Casasanta for contracts on the Senior Swing Dances and the Cabaret event. Mr. Casasanta stated standardized contracts would be completed on each event.

ADJOURNMENT

**A MOTION BY MR. SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MR. LIPINSKI WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

President Perna adjourned the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Klein, Secretary  
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

AEK/sq